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Letter dated 7 October 2005 from the Permanent Representative of Argentina and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

It is our pleasure to send you the "Highlights and conclusions" of the seminar entitled "Advancing in the implementation of Security Council resolution 1540 (2004)", organized by the Government of the Republic of Argentina and sponsored by the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

The seminar, held in Buenos Aires from 26 to 28 September 2005, was the first such event covering an entire region and provided an excellent opportunity to better understand the obligations under Security Council resolution 1540 (2004).

We would like to call your attention to the fact that participants at the seminar agreed to request the 1540 Committee to help countries in the Latin American and Caribbean region to identify areas and priorities for future work.

We would also like to ask that this letter and the annex thereto be circulated as a document of the Security Council for the benefit of all Member States.

(*Signed*) Sir Emyr **Jones Parry**, KCMG
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

(*Signed*) César **Mayoral**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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Annex to the letter dated 7 October 2005 from the Permanent Representative of Argentina and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

Advancing in the implementation of Security Council resolution 1540 (2004), Buenos Aires, 26-28 September 2005

Highlights

- Since the adoption of the resolution in April 2004, the seminar in Buenos Aires has been the first occasion for the 1540 Committee to reach out to representatives from a whole region; the seminar has addressed a broad range of issues related to implementation of resolution 1540 (2004) and its important role in preventing the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, their means of delivery and related materials, in particular by non-State actors and terrorists. Among other important related issued, preventing illicit financing and border controls were mentioned.
- The interactive format of the discussions has contributed to a better comprehension of the objectives of Security Council resolution 1540 (2004) objectives as well as of the steps to be pursued by States in the implementation process.
- The fact that the General Assembly of the Organization of American States adopted resolution 2107 (XXXV-0/05) highlighted the importance States of the region attach to addressing threats to international peace and security through the fulfilment in this case of their obligations under Security Council resolution 1540.
- Experience gained in the establishment of national authorities under the Chemical Weapons Convention and the seminars organized by the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons have helped in the implementation of obligations under resolution 1540 and have proved to be a valuable tool for States of the region.
- Implementation of resolution 1540 is a national responsibility. However, full implementation of this resolution by all States is a long-term objective which requires additional efforts to translate and enforce the requirement set forth in the resolution at the national level; full implementation of resolution 1540 will produce and increase security and economic dividends for all States; it will ensure a better protection of their territories and citizens and will facilitate their trade relations with third countries.
- Submission of national reports to the 1540 Committee is not just an obligation for States but also an essential tool for informing the Security Council about the progress achieved and challenges ahead in implementing the obligations pursuant to resolution 1540.
- The matrix which has been developed by the Committee is an important instrument that provides further guidance to States in preparing their first reports to the Committee, as well as in responding to the Committee's requests for additional information.

- There is an overwhelming amount of information available through the 121 national reports submitted until now. Forty-two States offered assistance and the experts of the 1540 Committee are available for any request Member States may have, and to provide them with direct assistance.
- Identification of potential additional sources of assistance by the Department for Disarmament Affairs, the Regional Centre for Disarmament and the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons.
- Follow-up interaction and dialogue between the countries of the region and the 1540 Committee would be needed as the implementation process and the work of the Committee evolve.

Conclusions

The Governments of Argentina and the United Kingdom will convey the results of the seminar to the Chair of the 1540 Committee.

Participants at the seminar:

1. Agree on the importance of designating a national point of contact for the preparation of their reports, as well as for follow-up action with the 1540 Committee.
2. Agree on the need to establish and ensure interministerial coordination, with adequate planning at the national level.
3. Request that the 1540 Committee help Member States of the region to identify priorities in the process of national implementation of resolution 1540.
4. Identified the following thematic meetings at which to continue the dialogue on implementation of resolution 1540:
   - The sixtieth session of the United Nations General Assembly, First Committee (New York, 3 October-2 November 2005);
   - Meeting of national legal experts at the United Nations (New York, 24-25 October 2005);
   - Meeting on nuclear and radiological safety under the auspices of the International Atomic Energy Agency (Ecuador, April 2006);
   - Meetings of the legal experts network of the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (TBD).
5. Liaise with the Department for Disarmament Affairs of the United Nations, the Regional Centre for Disarmament in Lima and the 1540 Committee focal point on assistance to pursue further action in follow-up to the regional seminar held in Buenos Aires from 26 to 28 September. This action could include workshops, seminars and training, building on regional experience, to promote the implementation of resolution 1540.